

**THE NORTHERN
PLAINS
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**1200 EAST
HIGHLAND ACRES
ROAD
BISMARCK, ND
58501-1252
701-255-1104
701-255-0103, Fax
<http://www.npcucc.org>**

AWARE FOR:

FEBRUARY 2011

**A monthly newsletter
supporting the building
of community in the
multi-cultural, multi-
ethnic, multi-lingual,
multi-national
community of faith.**



AS Look At It

A number of the Northern Plains Conference Pastors responded to the Pastoral Note that I sent out late Saturday Evening, January 8th following the news of the shooting in Tucson that claimed the life of 6 and wounded 14, of whom Congress Woman Gabrielle Gifford was one. As I had somewhat hurriedly expressed my deep sadness over the tragic events that had unfolded, I promised to respond more fully in the February AWARE. Let me begin by turning to God's word, where in Colossians 4:6 we read;

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

"Let your speech be gracious". How often do we build walls of anger when God would be better served by building bridges of understanding? How often have we heard, words that incite our fear instead of expanding our horizons?

This is not the time to cast blame, but simply to ask, if we are building walls or bridges? Jim Wallis, Editor of Sojourners, in the 1-13-11 "Sojo Mail" said the following, "Hatred is only overcome with the power of love, and violence is best defeated by the persistence of nonviolence that is aimed at winning people over, rather than winning over them.

As we move beyond this tragedy let us prayerfully seek ways to be agents of God's hope instead of mere pervades of the world's dismay. Let us strive to so speak and live that we become the model of God's holy vision instead of the denial of God's presence. May that which we do lead the way to a new world rather than simply rehash our old grievances.

President Obama began his remarks at the memorial service January 12th in Tucson by announcing that Congress Woman Gabrielle Gifford had opened her eyes for the first time following a visit he and Mrs. Obama had made earlier that afternoon. This was truly a hopeful moment of thanksgiving as the vision of a new

tomorrow was lifted high. To quote Jim Wallis, "I pray that this becomes a moment when we all open our own".

God is calling us to a new day.
May it be a time guided by prayer,
supported by the courage of our
convictions and enriched by the praise of
our faith. May our words reflect the God
that guides us and our actions betray the
one that has called us into being.
Namaste
Wade



Northern Plains Adjunct Ministers Report:

Northern Plains Council of Youth & Young
Adult Ministry Presents:



The 2011 New Earth Summer Camp Experience

***July 24th to July 28th 2011 at Camp of the
Cross Ministries***

1228A 47th NW, Garrison ND 58540

For Directions to camp go to:

[http://www.campofthecross.com/location.h
tml](http://www.campofthecross.com/location.html)

For Ages 8-18

Check us out on Facebook: NPCUCC
Northern Plains Council of Youth & Young
Adults

Stay tuned to the Conference Web
Site for more information. If you need
more information quicker, feel free to

contact Rev. Carl and Darcy Borden at 701-
840-5105/701-840-5104.

Carl Borden Northern Plains Youth and
Young Adult Ministry Minister



VOICES FROM THE PRAIRIE:

SRI LANKA

The first American Board missionaries
were sent in the early 19th century to India
and Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon). Our
Sri Lankan partners are grateful for the rich
history we share. In addition to establishing
churches, our early missionaries worked with
the Sri Lankans to establish a number of
schools, including the first medical school in
south Asia.

More recently, our partnership has
centered on needs arising from the
devastation of the Tsunami and a civil war
that lasted nearly 30 years. Currently, Sri
Lankans are suffering the effects of
cataclysmic flooding brought about by
torrential rains. By working together to meet
various kinds of needs, our historic
partnership continues to bear much fruit.

The support we provide to OCWM is
important both here in the Northern Plains
Conference, and across the globe. Please feel
free to contact me if you would like further
information on the work of Global Ministries.

Jim Moos



AWARE Available in TWO Versions:

Starting with the December 2010 issue, the Northern Plains Conference AWARE will come in two versions. There will be one that as before, will be held to two pages, and may have a smaller print size to accommodate that limitation. This is especially helpful to Congregations that mail it out via the US mail. Then, there will be a second version of the AWARE which will be an expanded version and sporting a larger font. This version will serve Congregations that send out the AWARE via email. Please let the Conference Office know how this works for you.



Annual Meeting Plans Are Underway

Plans for the 2011 Annual Meeting are underway. Soon the Registration forms will be available and housing arrangements can be made. Please mark June 3-5, 2011 on your calendars and make plans to be at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.



Medallion Award

Each year at the Annual Meeting we recognize Northern Plains Conference members who distinguish themselves in service by presenting them with a Medallion Award. The Medallion Award is to honor deserving lay persons and ministers who have served in the Conference in some capacity. The Award is intended to recognize members of the Conference who have served voluntarily for a sustained duration in one or more of these areas: Conference and local church, Regional and/or National Synod instrumentalities and Local Church, Local Church and Community.

Medallion Award Nomination forms and background information can be found on the Northern Plains Conference Web Site, www.npcucc.org and typing "medallion award" into the search box. If you have difficulty or need a nomination form sent to you, please contact the Conference Office.

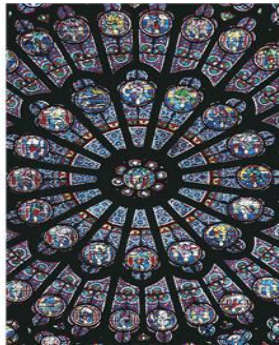
All Medallion Award Nomination forms are to be sent to the Conference Office.



Nominations Are Received for Northern Plains Conference Offices:

As we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting, June 3-5, 2011 in Fargo at First Congregational United Church of Christ,

we invite Northern Plains Conference members and congregations to prayerfully consider serving in a Conference Office. At the Present time, the Northern Plains Conference Nominating Committee will be looking to fill the position of Conference Secretary, Conference Treasurer, Church and Ministry Committee (2 positions), Faith and Nurture Committee (3 positions), and Mission and Outreach Committee (3 positions). Many of these positions can be filled with those that are already serving should they wish to serve another term. You can find a "2011 Nomination Form" by going to the Northern Plains Conference Web Site and looking under "Resource" or by putting "2011 Nomination" in the Search area.



Congregations Seeking A Pastor:

The following churches are seeking new pastoral leadership:

New Horizon Parish (near Lakota),
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo (currently with a hold on profiles).



Lenten Retreat: The Church in the 21st Century:

The Northern Plains Conference Welcomes Jennifer Kottler from Sojourners Magazine in Washington, D.C. to the Lenten Retreat, April 3-5, 2011. The Northern Plains Conference Lenten Retreat which will be held at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Jamestown. The theme for the Retreat will be "The Church in the 21st Century". In a time of radical change which calls forth new gifts, and blesses with new challenges, the church is called to walk into the promised land of a new tomorrow. Jennifer Kottler, an ordained Disciples of Christ pastor, and member of the Sojourners editorial staff, will guide us in discussion of the future as we see it and how we need to prepare for it

Please check the Northern Plains Conference Web Site under Church News or put Lenten Retreat in the search box and read more about our Lenten Retreat speaker.

Housing arrangements have been made at the Quality Inn and Suites in Jamestown and you can register for a room by calling 701-252-3611 or email your request for a room to GM:ND034@choicehotels.com, request the Northern Plains Conference block of rooms.

You can also find registration forms on the Northern Plains Conference Web Site under Church News or by entering "Lenten Retreat" in the search box. To help offset the cost of several meals, there will be a \$25.00 charge, payable to the Northern Plains Conference. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.



Greetings from the Media Resource Center:

New DVDs! Nooma DVDs are short films (10-14 minutes) about God and our lives. Appropriate for adults and college age as well as senior high school youth, they can be used for small group settings, weekend retreats, and congregational meetings; anyplace one might study life issues and spiritual growth. They use everyday experiences covering issues such as forgiveness, discipleship and unconditional love to communicate the fullness of life through Jesus. We have 24 DVDs, packaged in groups of four (six sets). Each DVD has a downloadable (pdf file) study guide with relevant questions and biblical references to assist with meaningful discussions.

New books! Four Infuse Bible Studies from Faith Alive Christian Resources:

Jonah – fish, flaws, forgiveness

Matthew – one king to rule them all

Colossians – the new old perfectly imperfect you

Esther – courage in a complicated world

The Infuse Bible Studies use the inductive approach (the reader discovers what the bible

has to say by asking questions and seeking answers from the passage studied). Historical insights help fill in details. Additional copies for the studies are available from Faith Alive Christian Resources for \$6 to \$8 each.

Thank you to all the churches that have sent in their 2011 annual Media Resource Center fees. We are missing many church fees at this time. Please check and see if your church treasurer has sent in the money.

Visit the website to see what we have:

www.plainsmedia.org

Carmen Gill, MRC Administrator



Yankton College Spring Courses Announced:

Eden Theological Seminary and Yankton College have announced Spring courses and Leadership event for Yankton Pastoral Theology program. We welcome the revival of the Yankton Program under the guidance and support of Eden Theological Seminary. The first course, "Creating Healthy Boundaries for a Healthy Ministry", will be offered at Chamberlain United Church of Christ in Chamberlain, South Dakota, April 29 and 30.

For more information on the entire program, please check the press release entitled, "Eden and Yankton College announce Spring Courses" which you can find by checking the Northern Plains Web Site under Resources or by typing "Eden and Yankton College" in the search box.



The Calendar for February

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
2/6	10:00 am (ct)	CM leads worship	Garrison
2/8	6:00 pm (ct)	Prairie Hospitality WebEx	-----
2/9	10:00 am(ct)	MV Cluster	-----
2/11	-----	CM on Vacation	-----
2/12	-----	CM on Vacation	-----
2/13	8:30 am (mt)	Cm Shares in worship	Elgin
2/16	12:00 Noon (ct)	Ft. Berthold Cluster	New Town
2/17	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	-----
2/17	-----	Annual Consultation	California
2/18	-----	Annual Consultation	California
2/19	-----	Consultation	California
2/20	-----	Consultation	California
2/21	-----	Consultation	California
2/22	-----	Consultation	California
2/24	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	-----
2/25	-----	Conference Committees	Carrington
2/26	9:00 am (ct)	Conference Council	Carrington
2/27	9:30 am (ct)	Cm Leads Worship	Wahpeton
2/28	-----	Central Cluster	-----